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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) For use on an ad hoc temporary incident area network

a number of traditional transceivers not specially adapted for interoperability and therefore potentially incompatible;

a number of standalone add-on modules for providing transceiver interoperability, each coupled to one of said transceivers to automatically convert audio information available from the ~~associated~~ transceiver to which said module is coupled to a common format and frequency assigned to equipment operating on the temporary incident area network, thus to assure that all receivers on said ad hoc temporary incident network can intercommunicate;

a sensor coupled to said module for coupling sensor data to said module;

a circuit at said module for uploading sensor data to said network; and,

a downloading unit at a node for downloading the sensor data carried by said network and for displaying said sensor data at said node, thus to reliably provide sensor data by using said network.

2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, and further including a camera at said module for providing image signals as an output thereof, said uploading circuit uploading said image signals.

3. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said image signals include video signals.

4. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said image signals include still picture signals.

5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said sensor is taken from the group consisting of location sensors, oxygen tank sensors, gas sensors, HAZMAT sensors, photo-ionization sensors and biometric sensors.

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, and further including an incident commander terminal having a display coupled to said node and wherein the sensor data transmitted over said network is displayed for said incident commander at the associated incident commander display terminal, thereby to provide said incident commander with situational awareness based on said sensor data.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein said module has a location and wherein said sensor data includes information relating to the location of said module and wherein said display includes a map and an icon indicating the location of said module.

8. (Previously Presented) On an ad hoc temporary incident area network having equipment operating thereon:

a number of handheld transceivers having audio in, audio out and push-to-talk outputs available external thereto; and,

a number of mini add-on modules each adapted to be carried by one of the number of handheld transceivers and coupled to said audio in, audio out and push-to-talk outputs for at least automatically converting verbal communications associated with said transceiver to common frequency and format such that the use of said mini add-on modules establishes a common frequency and format regardless of what frequencies and format said handheld transceivers are using, said mini module including circuits for transmitting said verbal communications between modules over said network in a bi-directional manner.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein each of said transceivers includes a battery and an external power connection contact and wherein each one of said mini modules includes a power input connection contact coupled to said external power connection contact for the powering of said mini module from the battery of the associated transceiver.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 8, and further including a sensor coupled to said mini module, said at least one mini module including a circuit for uploading data from said sensor to said network.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 10, and further including a predetermined number uniquely identifying at least one of said mini modules, and wherein said uploading circuit uploads said unique identifying number.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 11, and further including a camera coupled to said at least one of said mini modules and wherein said uploading circuit includes a circuit for uploading the output from said camera to said network.

13. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein said camera is taken from a group consisting of video cameras and still cameras.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 8, and further including wearable sensors coupled to at least one of said mini modules adapted to be worn by the individual using the associated transceiver, said sensors coupling data collected by a sensor that relates to events in the immediate vicinity of said individual to said mini module, whereby sensor data uploaded to said network and available at a node thereof is downloadable to said node for providing situational awareness of conditions in the incident scene at said individual, thus to provide situational awareness based on sensed conditions at said individual.

15. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said sensor includes a camera, whereby images in the vicinity of said individual are transmitted over said network to said node to support situational awareness.

16. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 14, and further including a local wireless network for coupling said sensor to said mini module, whereby said sensor can be worn by said individual and wirelessly connected to said mini module.

17. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said wireless network includes a Blue Tooth network.

18. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17, and further including a wireless headset communicating with said mini module, whereby verbal communications can be established between said mini module and said network regardless of said transceiver.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)